

17. *Helps.*—Ropes, chains and such like. *Undergirding.* This was done by drawing strong cables several times around the hull of the ship and tightening them, thus holding the timbers of the ship together. *Strake sail.* Lowered the gear or rigging of the ship. *Driven.* Or drifted along in the wind.

18. *Lightened the ship.*—This was done on the second day of the storm when the cargo was thrown overboard. See verse 38.

19. *Tackling.*—The ship's furniture and perhaps also the masts, sails and yards that could be spared.

20. *Sun—stars.*—Before the invention of the compass these heavenly bodies were the only guides of the sailors. *Many days.* The storm continued for fourteen days.

21. *Long abstinence.*—Under the strain of the storm they had done a long time without food. *Paul.* All are now willing to listen to him. He had tried to persuade them not to set sail from Fair Havens. Verses 8-10.

22. *I exhort.*—Tho they refused to listen to him once before, doubtless he now finds willing hearers. For one man to stand out in the midst of a hopeless scene like this, with a face lit up with the joy of an angel's presence, would inspire confidence.

23. *Angel of God.*—Another beautiful illustration of the blessed ministry of angels. Read Heb. 1:13-14. *Whose I am.* Paul recognizes that he is not his own. See I Cor. 6:20-21.

24. This verse shows the guiding hand of God in all this journey. Paul is to bear witness to Jesus before Caesar and all on board are to become his disciples.

25, 26. Here Paul expresses his full confidence in the Lord in the very midst of the storm, and he would have his fellows on the ship rest in the same faith.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION.

1. *All For Good.*—The experience of Paul is a practical illustration of the great truth which he himself wrote to the Romans, chapter 8:28, "All things work together for good to them that love the Lord." The trials, hardships, imprisonment, dangers by sea, and wrecks, all these afforded Paul an excellent opportunity to preach the gospel to those who otherwise could not have been reached. So it is in all of life's work. If we fully trust God and commit to him our temporal affairs he will overrule all for good. It is an inspiration to work under a government which turns our misfortunes into good. This is true however, only of those who commit their all trustingly to the Lord.

2. *Making the Most of it.*—Paul had

advised the sailors not to undertake this journey but he was not regarded as a man who knew anything. Since they have now gotten into trouble Paul does not sit down and tell them to work their way out. He gently reminds them of the council he gave them then goes to work to save the ship. When a man falls into sin Christianity does not stand by and tell him to see how he gets out, that he had no business to get into such trouble. Rather it comes to his relief, it takes him by the hand and gently leads him into the way of safety. It goes down by the wayside and takes up the wounded man, pours oil into his wounds and binds up his sores. Instead of arguing how sin came into the world, let us spend our time in making known that gospel which promises salvation from sin and offers eternal life to all who will accept it. Why sin was allowed to enter into the world is not my business; it is here and it is our business to use those means which God has ordained for our salvation from sin.

3. *The Human and Divine.*—In the saving of the crew on the storm-tossed ship we have another illustration of the harmony between God's promises and human free-will. Paul had a direct revelation from God that not a man should be lost of all that were on board. But this promise was conditioned on human action.

RELATION OF THE S. S. TO THE CHURCH.

JOHN TULLY.

The church is the fountain head of all government, religious or civil, and from it virtue, purity and holiness should emanate.

The Sunday-school is one of the most important departments of the church, if not the most important. It is not a separate institution from the church, but it is the nursery to the church.

Just as the small trees are first grafted and trained in the nursery, then placed in the orchard to bear fruit, so the children are trained and taught the word of God in the Sunday-school, then brought into the church to bear fruit.

When we get a tree from a nurseryman we expect the tree to bear the kind of fruit that has been grafted on it.

In a similar way the children will bear fruit of the Word of inspiration if it is properly prepared and divided by the teacher.

To be a good nursery the Sunday-school must have a good manager or superintendent, and the superintendent must see that the school is well supplied with efficient teachers.

The teacher should be equipped with the best material and know how to handle the same, for the intellectual, moral and

spiritual tendencies are controlled to a great degree by their skill and earnestness to draw out the latent powers of the mind, to direct to higher development in usefulness. The teacher must have a knowledge of what she is to teach. She must know what to teach, for if she is blind to the truth, how can she lead others to the truth? Her regular text book must be the Bible, as it is the source of all true equipment. She should be acquainted with the composition of the Bible, knowing something of its authors and their style of writing. She must teach the doctrines of the Bible, as they are to us what bread is to the physical body. Above all she must be equipped with the spirit of God. She can not be a good teacher unless spiritually alive, for as Jesus said, "Can the blind lead the blind?"

The pastor is just as truly the pastor of the Sunday-school as any other department of the church work. He should be more free during the Sunday-school session than he can be either as teacher of a class or superintendent. He should have the best place that will permit him to study the character of the teaching being done, being a supply teacher, taking one class one Sunday and another class another Sunday, as regular teachers happen to be absent. This gives him a good opportunity to come in contact with the scholars and see the character of the teacher's work.

There should be the closest sympathy between the pastor and superintendent and everything should be done harmoniously. A Sunday-school with such officers will have bright pupils. They will work in the mission field.

AN ILLUSTRATION.

In a certain city there lived a saloon keeper and his family. This saloon keeper had a little son and daughter. He loved his son, but the daughter was the idol of his heart. He dressed her in silk and gave her everything her little heart could wish for.

She was a little Christian girl and attended Sunday-school every Sunday. Before starting she and her little brother would stop at the saloon door and their papa would come out. One morning when they were dressed for Sunday-school they stopped as usual. He came immediately and said, "Well, children, I suppose you are after pennies for the Sunday-school." After getting their pennies the little girl said, "Papa, don't you want to hear me say the golden text? You always do." The father listened, the child repeated: "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging, and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise." Prov. 20:1. The father